

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCI-06 COA-02 CG-00 INT-08 CEQ-02 EPA-04

COME-00 EB-11 DOTE-00 FMC-04 SS-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00

PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 DODE-00 AF-10 IO-14

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2330

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 3390

UNCLAS USNATO 5124

E.O. 11652: GDS, N/A

TAGS: SENV, NATO

SUBJECT: CCMS: OCTOBER 23-24, 1973 PLENARY -- OIL SPILLS RESOLUTION

1. SUMMARY: BELGIUM STATED THAT WITH ITS ROLE AS PILOT COUNTRY COMING TO AN END, COORDINATION OF STUDY AND EFFECTIVE FOLLOW-UP ON TECHNICAL LEVEL WAS CRUCIAL TO SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS. U.S., CANADA, ITALY AND GREECE SUPPORTED THIS EMPHASIS IN DISCUSSION AND EACH COUNTRY MENTIONED SPECIFICS OF PROBLEMS TO BE ADDRESSED OR WAYS TO INSURE EFFECTIVE FOLLOW-UP. END SUMMARY.

2. BELGIUM (RENSON) STATED THAT THE IMPACT OF THE OIL SPILLS RESOLUTION WAS DEMONSTRATED BY THE PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING OIL SPILLS RECOMMENDATIONS. THE RISK OF FUTURE OIL SPILLS HAD BEEN REDUCED. WHILE SEVENTEEN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION HAD BEEN POINTED OUT TO IMCO, PROGRESS HAD BEEN SLOW. BELGIANS EMPHASIZED NECESSITY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLLOW-UP TO BE THOROUGH, SCIENTIFIC AND PRACTICAL UNDER TOP-LEVEL SUPERVISION.
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ITALY STRESSED ITS REGRET THAT OCEAN AREAS TO BE SINGLED OUT FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT HAD NOT BEEN EXPANDED TO INCLUDE THE MEDITERRANEAN.

3. US CONCURRED THAT OIL SPILLS FOLLOW-UP IS ISSUE WHICH SHOULD ENGAGE ATTENTION OF PLENARY AND POINTED OUT THAT IMCO CONFERENCE HAD BEEN ORGANIZED LARGELY AS RESULT OF THE NATO INITIATIVE. TRAIN EMPHASIZED MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS OF IMCO CONFERENCE TECHNICAL COMMITTEES, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO MANDATORY SEGREGATED BALLAST FOR HEAVY OIL TANKERS. TRAIN POINTED OUT THAT 1976-80 EFFECTIVE DATES FOR DEFINITION OF "NEW SHIP" DID NOT FULLY MEET "1975 IF POSSIBLE" DEADLINE IN CCMS RESOLUTION. TRAIN ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT PRESENT ARTICLE VIII OF IMCO PCMP/8/3 OF 7 MARCH 1973, WAS MAJOR THREAT AND SHOULD BE DELETED. FINALLY, TRAIN POINTED OUT THAT MEDITERRANEAN WAS INCLUDED AS SPECIAL OCEAN AREA UNDER PROPOSED CONVENTION.

4. CANADA AGREED THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO ENFORCE EFFECTIVE FOLLOW-UP ON OIL SPILLS RESOLUTION AND PROPOSED A COLLOQUIUM TO BE HELD IN 1975.

5. GREECE CONCURRED WITH THE GENERAL DISCUSSION AND MENTIONED NEW REGULATIONS ADOPTED IN GREECE WHICH WENT BEYOND 1954 REQUIREMENTS NOW APPLICABLE TO ALL VESSELS. GREECE ALSO STATED THAT IT WAS NOW MONITORING COASTLINE SPILLS ON 24 HOUR BASIS.
RUMSFELD

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